

# *Cephalanthus occidentalis*

## Buttonbush



A shrub for moist or wet sites, often growing in shallow water. Needs to be planted in an open site with lots of sun. Leaves emerge late, not until early June. Flowers in late July or August - intriguing spherical clusters, with stamens projecting like pins in a pin cushion. Sweetly fragrant; loved by bees. Fruit is a brown, dry, ball-shaped cluster that persists through winter. Transplants well.

***Suggested companions:*** ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*), winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), (Note: the previously mentioned shrubs are found in wet soils, but not in standing water), bulrush (*Scirpus* sp.), skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetida*), joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*), swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)

Plant Type: Shrub

Size: 6'-12' H  
12-20' W

Photo Credit: Wisconsin State Herbarium,  
by Kenneth J. Sytsma

Water Tolerant: Very

Habitat:

Swamp/ Bog  
Shrubby Wetland  
River Margins

Soil: Very Damp/Wet  
Average Garden Soil  
Sandy/ Gravelly  
Rich Moist  
Clay

Exposure: sun

Flower Color:

White

Bloom Time:

July  
August

Other Attributes:

Fragrant  
Butterfly attracting

Plant in:

Groundcover: No